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Country: USSR (Western Ukraine)

10 Feb 54

Subject: Vygodna Wood-Products Chemical Plant; Svalyava Wood-Products Chemical Plant

Place Acquired:

Date Acquired :

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Date of Info :

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Source:

1. What types of wood were used in the wood chemical industry?

Only hard wood; mostly oak, beech, maple, sycamore maple, ash, elm and others.

2. Give the number of furnaces used for the processing of this wood.

In the Vygodna wood chemical plant there were only four and in Svalyava wood chemical plant there were sixteen.

3. What products were produced in those wood chemical plants?

They produced alcohol that was called "Mentolin" [Methyl Alcohol] in the Russian language. They also produced some powders called "Asiton" [Acetone]. The color of the powders was greyish-white. Charcoal was made too, but I don't know of any other products produced in these plants.

4. How much wood was used daily?

25X1A2g

I don't know the exact number of cubic meters used. However, I would say that one furnace was able to hold approximately four cubic meters. I don't know how long the wood was processed in the furnaces.

5. Were there reserves of wood at the wood chemical plants?

Yes, there were, but I don't know the exact amount in cubic meters.

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6. Can you mention any new methods or developments in the wood chemical plants during your employment there?

I don't know of any.

7. How many cubic meters of wood were needed for daily production?

Supplies of wood were brought in daily but I don't know how many cubic meters.

8. What changes took place in the wood chemical plants during the period of your employment?

There was a fire in the Vygoda wood chemical plant during the period of my employment. No changes took place at the wood chemical plant in Zvalyava during my employment.

9. In what condition is the equipment at these plants?

The plant equipment isn't in very good mechanical condition.

10. What were the differences between the two plants?

The differences were as follows: The Vygoda wood chemical plant was smaller than the Zvalyava plant. The Svalyava wood chemical plant had more employees.

11. Were these wood chemical plants damaged during World War II?

I didn't see any damage at the Zvalyava wood chemical plant. The Vygoda plant was not seriously damaged. Only the smoke stack of the Vygoda plant was damaged.

12. How did the pre-war output [percentage] or the chemical products from these plants compare with the post-war output? Was there a greater quantity of chemical produced in the pre-war or post-war period?

I don't know because I didn't work in these plants before the war. After the war I was employed there for only a short period of time. I don't know the production figures but I did hear from other employees, who had worked in these plants for a long period of time, that above 25% to 30% more chemical products were produced in the pre-war in the pre-war period than in the post-war period from the same amount of wood.

13. What were the working norms of the employees in the plants and were the norms fulfilled according to the plan?

I heard that the workers complained to each other about the "high working norms" which were difficult for everyone to fulfill. I don't know how high the norms were, but I heard that they were mostly unfulfilled.

14. Approximately how many people were employed at the Vygoda and Zvalyava wood chemical plants?

Approximately 350 - 400 people were employed at the Vygoda wood chemical plant and about 2,000 - 1,000 employed at the Zvalyava plant.

Page Three

15. What was the ethnic composition of the inhabitants of Zvalyava?

The inhabitants of the city of Zvalyava were "natives", "Sub-Carpatho Russians", then there were also Russians, Ukrainians, Magyars, Poles and also some Slovaks. The "natives" were in a minority. The Russians constituted the second largest group, the Magyars were third, the Poles fourth, then the Ukrainians and also a very small number of Slovaks.

16. Did Zvalyava have any transient population elements?

Yes, there were people there who were transients. I know of some who worked in the Zvalyava wood chemical plant. There were also some "chemical" students sent there by the Russians to acquire some chemical experience.

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